Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying a local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the method comprising:

receiving a request in a first format from a sender for an identity of the caller's local service provider, the call having been suspended at a switch of an interexchange carrier;

sending a request in a second format to an LNP database, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

receiving an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

determining a message type to send to the identified database to query;

launching a query to the identified database;

receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider from the identified database in response to the query; and

sending a notification to the sender, the notification comprising identifying information of the identified local service provider of the caller and whether an agreement exists between the identified local service provider and the

interexchange carrier, wherein the interexchange carrier uses the notification to decide whether to connect the suspended call to the called party.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon a cost associated with each of a plurality of available message types.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon the message type supported by the identified database.

4-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

10. (previously presented) A method of identifying a local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the method comprising:

monitoring integrated services digital network user part signaling traffic of a carrier for initial address messages;

sending a request to an LNP database when the monitoring detects the telephone call, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

receiving an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

determining a message type in which to query the identified database, the determining based on a cost associated with each of a plurality of message types and based upon a message type supported by the identified database;

launching a query to the identified database; and

receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider from the identified database in response to the query.

11-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the launching is performed during the pendency of the telephone call.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

18. (currently amended) A system for identifying a local service provider of a caller associated with a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the system comprising:

a gateway comprising a plurality of platforms configured to dynamically load share requests, the gateway receiving a request requesting an identification of the local service provider of the caller, the gateway configured to determine one of a plurality of message types in which to query ~~one of a plurality of databases~~ an identified database, to launch a query to the ~~one of the plurality of~~

~~databases~~ the identified database, and to receive an identification of the local service provider of the caller,

wherein the gateway determines the message type based upon a cost associated with each of a plurality of available message types and based upon a message type supported by the ~~one of the plurality of databases~~ the identified database.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received prior to the telephone call being connected to the called party.

22. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received during the pendency of the telephone call.

23. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received after the telephone call has been disconnected.

24. (currently amended) The system according to claim 18, wherein ~~at least one of the plurality of databases~~ the identified database comprises a line information database.

25. (previously presented) A computer readable medium for identifying a local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the caller to a called party, the computer readable medium comprising:

a monitoring code segment that monitors integrated services digital network user part signaling traffic of a carrier for initial address messages;

a querying code segment that queries an LNP database when the monitoring code segment detects the telephone call, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

a first receiving code segment that receives an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

a determining code segment that determines a message type in which to query the identified database, the determining based upon a cost associated with each available message type and based upon a message type supported by the identified database;

a launching code segment that launches a query to the identified database; and

a second receiving code segment that receives an identification of the caller's local service provider in response to the query by the launching code segment .

26. (previously presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

27. (canceled)

28. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises a GetData query.

29. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises an originating line number screening query.

30. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the query comprises a billed number screening query.

31. (new) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending a second request to an access routing guide to determine which of a plurality of databases to query.

32. (new) The method according to claim 31, wherein the access routing guide comprises a line information database (LIDB) access routing guide.

33. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider further comprises receiving an identification of a revenue accounting office, account owner, and billing service provider associated with the telephone number of the caller.

34. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first format comprises a text format.

35. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first format comprises ASCII text.

36. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second format comprises an SS7 format.

37. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the request is received after the call has been connected to the called party and before the call has been disconnected.

38. (new) The method according to claim 18, the identified database having been identified as a result of a request sent to an LNP database and a request sent to an access routing guide.

39. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein the access routing guide comprises a line information database (LIDB) access routing guide.

40. (new) The method according to claim 10, the monitoring further comprising monitoring initial address messages relating to casually dialed calls.

41. (new) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, the monitoring further comprising monitoring initial address messages relating to casually dialed calls.